



Frequently Asked Questions

Standalone Field Testing (SFT)

OVERVIEW

What is Standalone Field Testing (SFT), and why is it important?

NWEA is continuously striving to provide you with the most accurate picture of each child. Standalone Field Testing (SFT) is our process of introducing and testing new items with a goal of increasing the breadth and depth of assessment knowledge in future Measures of Academic Progress® (MAP®) testing. The field-testing of items also allows NWEA to maintain the integrity of the RIT scale. By participating in SFT, you have an opportunity to see the next generation of item types, all of which are Common Core aligned.

Why should my school or district participate in SFT?

With the adoption of the Common Core Standards and other criteria associated with success, students are being asked to demonstrate both breadth and depth of knowledge on assessments. By participating in these field test studies, your students will be introduced to a variety of new item types including technology-enhanced items, constructed response items, and writing prompts. These are the same types of enhanced items that will be on future statewide assessments. Participating in the studies now will allow you to prepare students for these new item types as well as providing insight into how they might perform in the future. In addition, NWEA is offering financial incentives for participants who complete the test.

What students are eligible for SFT?

NWEA is looking for a variety of participants, ranging in grades 2-10, including students who can read Spanish. We also conduct a variety of research studies including assessments on mobile platforms. Please see the section below on currently available tests.

What is the date range for SFT?

NWEA is always recruiting for standalone field testing participants, as we are continuously expanding the breadth and depth of our item pool. Note that certain specialized studies may have limited date ranges. These will be updated on the SFT website (www.nwea.org/sft) as dates are determined.

*** We have immediate needs and will offer special incentives for winter and spring 2013 testing for students in grades 2 through 5 to test MAP items written in Spanish, as well as for students to test brief constructed and extended constructed response items in both math and reading, in elementary, middle, and high schools.**

UNDERSTANDING NEW TESTS AND ITEM TYPES

What types of items are available for testing?

Current standalone field tests include both multiple-choice and technology-enhanced items that will assess the more rigorous standards associated with the Common Core. Enhanced items provide additional interaction between the student and the test. The enhanced item types available for testing now include:

- 'Hot spots' where the student selects the answer, and the answer selected is circled;
- 'Click and Pop' where the student constructs the answer and the components they 'click' on 'pop' into position; and
- 'Drag and Drop' where the student clicks on a component to select it, continues to hold the mouse button down until reaching the desired position on the item, and then releasing the mouse button to place the component.

As new item types become available, they will be added to the field testing pool.

Why is exposure to new item types important?

Exposure to new item types prepares students for content they will see on future state tests and helps your staff understand how the Common Core Standards will be assessed. While helping NWEA build a robust Common Core MAP assessment to support your assessment needs, you will also have an opportunity to understand how your students are likely to engage with new item formats representing these new rigorous educational standards.

What tests are available?

Test Name	Content Area	Grades Needed	Recruiting Window	Test Window
Brief Constructed Response	Math	5, 8	URGENT	April - May
	Reading	4-10		
Writing Prompt (Extended Constructed Response)	Language	4-10	URGENT	April - May
Spanish MAP (Spanish readers required)	Math	2-5	URGENT	Feb - June
	Math	6-10	Spring 2013	Begins March 2013, rolling
iPad Research Study	Math	4, 6, 8	Now	May - June
	Reading	4, 6, 8		
TEIs - Common Core Aligned	Reading	2-5	Now	Current
	Reading	6+		
	Math	2-5		
	Math	6+		
New TEIs - Common Core Aligned	All	2-10	Spring 2013	Begins June 2013, rolling

What tests are prioritized for administration in the winter and spring of 2013?

- **Spanish Math Grades 2-5 & 6+**

This test, written fully in Spanish, will assess Spanish-speaking students using an assessment similar to the MAP assessment used for English-speaking students. Students must be able to read in Spanish.

- **Extended Constructed Response (Writing Prompt) – Grades 4-5, 6-8, and 9-10**

The writing prompt is a web-based test that allows students to read a text and respond to a question in essay form. Prior to the prompt the student will take approximately 20 standard MAP items to inform the students starting position, which will take approximately 10 – 20 minutes. The text and essay portion of the test will follow, which will take approximately 30 – 40 minutes to complete. We need students in grades 4-10 for this test.

NOTE: This test is conducted outside of the MAP testing environment; however it requires minimal pre-test setup and training.

- **Brief Constructed Response – Math and Reading - Grades 4-10**

Brief constructed response items are also part of a web-based test that is being offered in math and reading. Prior to answering the BCR items, the student will take approximately 20 standard MAP items to inform the students starting position, which will take approximately 10 – 20 minutes.

The math tests, which will take approximately one hour, will be given to students in grades 5 and 8. The test will consist of 10 brief constructed response items. Some brief constructed response items require free text response in which students provide their own answer and/or explain or justify answers. Others may require features like drag and drop. All items are aligned to Common Core Standards.

The reading tests are designed to be taken in one 45-60 minute sitting. There are three target grade bands: 4-5, 6-8, and 9-10. The items have been aligned to the Common Core State Standards. Each test event includes a small number of reading passages, followed by short constructed response answers.

NOTE: This test is conducted outside of the MAP testing environment; however it requires minimal pre-test setup and training.

- **iPad – Math and Reading - Grades 4, 6, and 8**

As mobile devices have gained in popularity in K-12 education, there is a growing demand for mobile assessment to measure student academic performance and growth. NWEA has committed to mobile assessment by initiating research to administer MAP tests on mobile devices. Research will be conducted to systemically examine the comparability of item calibrations across different test administration devices. The first component of this study will involve administering MAP on iPads.

Students will take a 20-item MAP assessment on a computer/laptop, then they are randomly assigned into two groups for the purposes of comparison. In group A, examinees are asked to take a 50-item fixed form test on computer/laptop, whereas in group B examinees are taking the same test on a school-supplied iPad.

What other Standalone Field Tests are available, and why are they valuable?

- **Math Grades 2-5 & 6+**

This test will include items aligned to the Common Core State Standards and other standards that assess higher order mathematics reasoning skills appropriate for 2nd through 12th grade students.

- **Reading Grades 2-5 & 6+**

This test will include items aligned to the Common Core State Standards and other standards that assess higher order reading skills appropriate for 2nd through 12th grade students.

TERMS OF PARTICIPATION

What commitment is required to participate in Standalone Field Testing?

Each student participating in Standalone Field Testing must complete a minimum of one test that will last approximately one hour and can take as many unique tests as schedules permit. Testers may pause and resume a test at a later date if necessary.

What incentives will I receive for field testing items for NWEA?

Understanding that each school district might have individual needs, NWEA is willing to work with each participating district to define a set of incentives based on your participation level.

What type of agreement will I sign with NWEA to participate?

To participate, you will sign a Standalone Field Test agreement that lists the selected field tests, targeted test administration window, estimated number of testers as well as the conditions for receiving incentives.

ADMINISTERING AN SFT**Do I need to do anything differently when proctoring an SFT?**

No. The proctoring process is the same as standard MAP testing. Participants new to MAP testing will receive instructions to effectively proctor a SFT administration.

Will I get a special test package for SFT?

Yes. Most tests are available individually and identified as Standalone field tests with an “SFT” at the end of the test name.

What are the system requirements to take the SFT?

SFT system requirements are the same as those for MAP. Web-based MAP requirements are found here:

<http://www.nwea.org/support/article/922/technical-requirements-map%C2%AE-testing>

Client-server based system requirements are here:

http://www.nwea.org/sites/www.nwea.org/files/resources/Technical%20Requirements_MAP.pdf

What if I am not a current MAP Partner?

Participants not currently using MAP can utilize our web-based platform to take any of NWEA’s SFTs. The NWEA technical and implementation staff will work with you to gather necessary technology / computer lab information, and grades and number of students to test. It typically takes two weeks to perform the implementation tasks before SFTs are available for testing.

How many items are in an SFT?

Depending on the test and the types of items, students will be exposed to between 20 and 50 items.

How long does it take to administer an SFT?

Generally, Standalone Field Tests are designed to be completed in one hour. Students may pause and resume testing to accommodate class schedules.

How many SFTs can a student take?

Students can take multiple field tests per testing window. However, if students do take more than one field test, NWEA requires that they are each in a different content area. For example, a student can take a math field test and a reading field test but could not take two reading field tests in one testing window.

Can I do SFT on the MAP Client-Server system and MAP Web-based system?

Yes. SFTs are offered on both Client-server and Web-based MAP platforms.

Can SFTs be done on PCs and/or Macs?

Yes. All SFTs are available for PCs and Macs.

Will NWEA provide tech support if I need help with SFT implementation?

Yes, NWEA will provide assistance with your SFT implementation, and our Technical Support team is available to help should you have any questions or concerns.

Will I need to roster the SFT students separate from the normal rostering process?

For partners utilizing the Web-based MAP platform, rostering will be completed for you. Client/Server MAP partners follow their normal rostering process.

How many students should participate? Do ALL of my students need to participate?

While we would like as many students as possible to participate, it is up to the participating district/school to decide what is feasible for their staff and students.

How do I sign up?

Contact the Field Test Recruiting Team at fieldtest@nwea.org or your NWEA Account Manager.

NEXT STEPS AFTER TESTING**Once testing is complete, how do I return my students' responses to NWEA?**

For those partners using Web-based MAP, NWEA will automatically capture, review, and interpret all field test information. Partners using Client-server MAP will upload test responses to NWEA via their standard daily upload process.

First time testers will be assisted by NWEA's technical support team to return response data to NWEA.

What results will I get back?

Students will receive a score at the end of the Spanish math and Common Core tests. However, this score is only based on the items that were used as "anchor items" to determine an appropriate starting point for the student. Due to the limited number of items presented in this

“anchor” set, this score has a much larger standard of error than a MAP test and should not be compared to previous MAP results.

No score data will be provided for iPad or Constructed Response tests.

When will the new test items types be available?

New item types, including technology-enhanced and constructed response items, are available now, with new item types continuing to be introduced over the next several months.

How will the data from the SFT be used?

The data from the SFT will be used to determine how well the new item types function and if they accurately measure student performance. No student identifiable information will be collected as part of the SFT study. The results will not be reported as part of a student’s existing testing history.

When will I receive my incentive?

Each quarter, the number of completed tests will be assessed, and credits awarded for use per your SFT agreement. Credits will expire 12 months after award.

If you have further questions about NWEA Standalone Field Testing or Research Studies, please contact your Account Manager/Executive or contact our Field Test Specialists at FieldTest@nwea.org.